EGBERT

I.C.D. 2

FEBRUARY
No.17

A QUALITY COMIC PUBLICATION

10¢

EGBERT AND THE COUNT, HAVE YOU EVER BEEN UP BEFORE ME?

WE DON'T KNOW, JUDGE! WHAT TIME DO YOU GET UP?

BEN LEVIN —

Let's Go, Pal! I'll prove I can make YOU an "ALL-AROUND" HE-MAN

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WHAM
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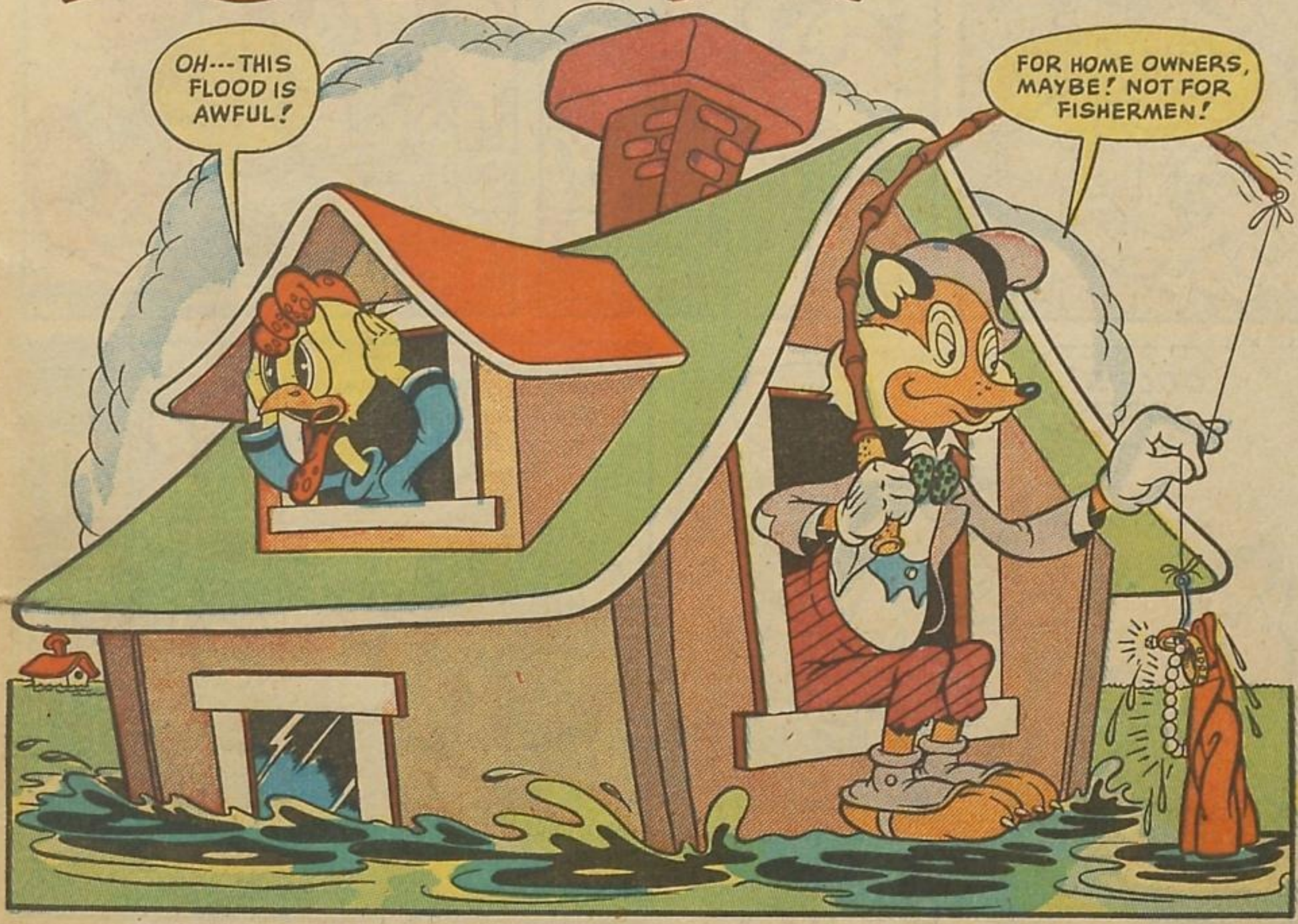
EGBERT, February, 1950, No. 17. Published bi-monthly by Arnold Publications, Inc., 8 Lord Street, Buffalo, N. Y. Executive Offices, 578 Summer Street, Stamford, Conn. E. M. Arnold, General Manager. Harry Stein, Editor. Elaine Allen, Gloria Bley, Alfred Grenet, Associate Editors. Entered as 2nd class matter, Oct. 25, 1945, at the Post Office, Buffalo, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. The characters and events pictured herein are entirely fictitious. The Publisher accepts no responsibility for unsolicited material. Editorial and Advertising Offices, 25 West 45th St., New York 19, N. Y. Copyright 1949 by Arnold Publications, Inc. Printed in U. S. A.

EGBERT and the COUNT



EGBERT

NO SOONER SAID THAN DONE! STRIKE WHILE THE IRON'S HOT, I ALWAYS SAY!

KNOCK! KNOCK!

CAN YOU PUT ME UP FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS, EGGY? MY LANDLADY AND I HAD A---ER---DISAGREEMENT!

OF COURSE, COUNT---COME IN!

I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T LET ME DOWN, EGBERT! YOU'RE A GOOD EGG!

OOOPS! YOUR CAKE!

MY DIGNITY!

BUMP!

C'MON, EGGY---IT'S DINNER TIME! LAST ONE IN'S A ROTTEN EGG!

Later...

NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL A DELICIOUS MEAL! =BURP=

TOO BAD I WAS TOO BUSY FEEDING YOU TO TASTE ANY OF IT!

YOU GOT A COZY LITTLE PLACE HERE, EGBERT!

TOO NICE FOR A DUMB CLUCK LIKE YOU!

NOW, YOU JUST MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE AND LISTEN TO THE RADIO, WHILE I DO THE DISHES!

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'RE SO NICE TO ME, COUNT!

THE COUNT'S A REAL FRIEND TO WASH ALL THOSE DISHES!

I HOPE I GET BACK BEFORE THAT FEATHER-BRAINED CHICKEN MISSES ME!

STOP

HAVE FUN! FOOL YOUR FRIENDS! BROADCAST YOUR OWN PROGRAMS

HOW'RE YOU DOIN', EGGY?

FINE, COUNT! I ALWAYS DID LOVE GUY AVOCADO'S MUSIC!

YOU HAVE TO USE YOUR NOODLE, IF YOU WANT TO GET A BOODLE, I ALWAYS SAY! WELL, HERE GOES!

WE INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM TO BRING YOU AN IMPORTANT NEWS FLASH!

ZZZZ! HUH? W-WHAT DID YOU SAY?

THE RIVER IS OVERFLOWING--- FLOOD COMING THIS WAY--- EVERYBODY RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!

DID YOU HEAR THAT, COUNT? WE'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE FAST, OR WE'LL BOTH BE DROWNED!

NOW, EGBERT! DON'T BE CHICKEN-HEARTED!

C'MON, EGGY, BE HARDBOILED!

I'M TRYING TO, COUNT! =SNIFF= BUT YOU KNOW, THIS IS NO YOKE---I MEAN, JOKE!

DON'T GET YOURSELF IN A STEW! JUST RUN UP TO HIGH GROUND, AND YOU'LL BE SAFE!

WHEW! THAT WAS ALMOST AS HARD WORK AS **WORKING!** FOR A MINUTE HE LOOKED LIKE HE WAS GONNA HATCH---I MEAN, LATCH ONTO MY GAG!

BUT IT WAS WORTH IT! THE COUNT'S IN AND EGBERT'S OUT! NOW TO MAKE MYSELF COMFORTABLE!

RUN FOR YOUR LIVES, EVERYBODY! FLOOD COMING THIS WAY!

HEAR THAT? A FLOOD!

OH, DEAR--- HURRY! WE'LL ALL BE DROWNED!

TSK, TSK! AND I JUST HAD A BATH, TOO!

KEEP COOL, FOLKS! THERE'S PLENTY OF ROOM UP HERE FOR EVERYBODY!

=PUFF= WE'RE SAFE! LUCKY WE GOT HERE BEFORE THE FLOOD STARTED!

WHERE'S THE COUNT? I THOUGHT HE WAS FOLLOWING ME!

COME BACK, YOU FOOL ROOSTER! THERE'S A FLOOD COMING THIS WAY!

I'VE GOT TO SAVE THE COUNT! HE MUST BE TRAPPED!

COUNT! COUNT! GET OUT WHILE THERE'S STILL TIME! THE FLOOD'LL BE HERE ANY MINUTE!

YOU SCATTERBRAINED ROOSTER! DO YOU THINK I'M STUPID ENOUGH TO FALL FOR MY OWN GAG? NOW, GET OUT AND STAY OUT!

GAG? NOW WHAT COULD HE MEAN BY THAT?

SLAM

I'VE GOT TO SAVE HIM SOMEHOW! I'LL GET IN THROUGH THE CHIMNEY!

WELL NOW THAT I'VE GOTTEN RID OF THAT HALF-BAKED ROOSTER, I GUESS I CAN RELAX AND ENJOY MYSELF!

CLICK

WARNING, EVERYBODY! THE SQUEEDUNK RIVER HAS OVERFLOWED ITS BANKS!

HUH? SQUEE-DUNK RIVER? THAT'S RIGHT NEAR HERE!

I BETTER GET OUT OF HERE, BUT FAST!

RR-ROAR-RRRR!

TOO LATE! I'M A FOOLED FOX! HALP!

CLIMB UP THROUGH THE CHIMNEY, COUNT! IT'S SAFER UP HERE ON THE ROOF!

EGBERT

WHY DIDN'T YOU LISTEN TO ME, COUNT? NOW, WE'LL BOTH BE DROWNED!

EGGY, OLD PAL, =SOB= WITH THE END SO NEAR, I GOTTA CONFESS, =SOB= I WAS TRYING TO SELL YOU DOWN THE RIVER!

THERE'S NO ONE DOWN THERE TO BUY ME, COUNT--- EVERYONE'S ON TOP OF THE HILL!

IT'S EGBERT AND THE COUNT!

THEY'RE COMING THIS WAY!

THEY'RE SAFE!

THE WATER'S RECEDING! THE FLOOD'S OVER!

YOUNG MAN! YOUR HOUSE IS THE ONLY ONE IN TOWN THAT'S ABOVE WATER! HERE'S $500 FOR IT!

500 BUCKS? THAT AIN'T CHICKEN FEED!

Later...

AS MAYOR OF THIS TOWN, I AWARD YOU THIS MEDAL FOR SAVING US ALL FROM THE FLOOD!

AW, GEE, THANKS, MAYOR!

CAN YOU BEAT THAT? IT SURE PAYS TO BE IGNORANT!

EGBERT

RASPUTIN

MERWIN, I'M DROWNING! HELP ME!

SURE, RASPUTIN, I'LL BE GLAD TO HELP YOU . . . DROWN, THAT IS!

LIFE GUARD

LIFE GUARD

BEN LEVIN

MERWIN, I'VE TAKEN A NEW JOB AND INCLUDED YOU!

YOU ALWAYS COUNT ME IN WHEN THERE'S WORK TO DO!

BUT THIS IS DIFFERENT! IT'S NOT WORK, IT'S PLAY.. LOUNGING ON THE BEACH ALL DAY AND OCCASIONALLY GOING FOR A SWIM...

HUH?

...AND FEASTING OUR EYES ON THE WONDERFUL SIGHTS, MAINLY BATHING BEAUTIES...

RASPY, HURRY! WE'RE LOSING PRECIOUS TIME ON THE JOB! TEE, HEE!

...AND BEING HEROES AND RECEIVING PRAISE AND MEDALS AND CHEERS!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE JOB IS, BUT IT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!

WE'RE LIFE GUARDS!

OH, BOY!

EXIT

LIFE GUARD

LIFE GUARD

AND WHAT A LIFE! *WOW!*

WHAT DID I TELL YOU? HEE, HEE! SOME SCENERY, HUH?

THAT'S FOR ME -- *GRAWK!*

SLOW DOWN, SHRIMP! KEEP YOUR MIND ON BUSINESS INSTEAD OF MONKEY BUSINESS!

AFTER ALL, YOU HAVE TO DO SOMETHING TO EARN OUR PAY!

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THERE'D BE A CATCH TO THIS!

IRD

YOU'LL RENT BATHING SUITS, RUN THE CHECK ROOM, PUT OUT BEACH UMBRELLAS, SELL POP AND HOT DOGS, MAN THE LIFE BOAT --

GULP

AND WHAT WILL YOU DO?

LIFE GUARD

I'LL SAVE LIVES, OF COURSE! THAT'S WHAT WE'RE HIRED FOR!

I WISH YOU'D THINK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT SAVING MINE!

LIFE GUARD

EGBERT

I ALWAYS GET THE HEAVY WORK TO DO, BUT I'M TOO LITTLE TO FIGHT BACK!

LOOK AT THAT BIG APE, SHOWING OFF FOR THOSE GIRLS!

HOT DOGS 10¢

HOT DOGS

ICE COLD SODA POP, TEN BURPS FOR A DIME!

YOO, HOO! BOY, I'LL TAKE SOME!

10¢ SODA POP

WHAT'S YOUR NAME? I'M PUDGY PIG!

THAT'S OBVIOUS! I MEAN--ER-- I'M MERWIN!

LET'S GO SWIMMING! YOU'RE A CUTE LITTLE MONKEY!

YAWK! I'M IN A HURRY, TOO! I HAVE WORK TO DO!

IT'S JUST MY LUCK TO DRAW A PICKLE LIKE PUDGY PIG PANT PANT WHILE RASPUTIN IS SURROUNDED BY BEAUTIES!

BYE-EE! HEE, HEE! SEE YOU LATER!

AFTER YOU'VE PEDDLED THE POP, CLEAN UP THE BEACH! IT'S CLUTTERED WITH RUBBISH!

I SUPPOSE YOU WANT ME TO WASH IT, TOO, BECAUSE IT'S COVERED WITH SAND!

KEEP CLEAR

EGBERT

HELP! HELP!

AH! AT LAST, A LIFE TO SAVE!

LIFE GUARD

THIS IS MY CHANCE TO BE A HERO!

YIEE! THE WATER'S COLD!

LIFE GUARD

HELP!

MERWIN, IT'S A DAMSEL IN DISTRESS! TO THE RESCUE!

OH, GOSH! I'LL TRY TO SAVE HER, RASPY!

HELP!

HANG ON! I'M COMING!

I WON'T LET HIM TAKE THE CREDIT! I'LL THINK OF A WAY TO GRAB THE GLORY FOR MYSELF!

LIFE

HELP!

YAWK! IT'S PUDGY PIG! BUT I CAN'T LET HER DROWN!

OHHH! I'M EXHAUSTED!

YOU POOR BOY, I'LL DO THE REST!

THIS'LL DO IT! NOW EVERYBODY'LL THINK I SAVED HER AND I'LL BE A HERO TO THE PRETTY GIRLS!

EGBERT

RASPUTIN, YOU'RE WONDERFUL!

OH, I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING, REALLY!

FOR ONCE, HE TOLD THE TRUTH!

PUF! PUF!

YOU GREAT BIG HANDSOME MAN, I OWE MY LIFE TO YOU!

THAT'S ALL RIGHT--- YOU KEEP IT! HEH, HEH!

OH, NO! I'M YOURS, MY HERO!

AWK! LET ME OUT OF HERE!

LIF GUAR

HELP! I DIDN'T SAVE YOU! HE DID!

YOU'RE JUST BEING MODEST! YOU CAN'T ESCAPE ME! FATE HAS BROUGHT US TOGETHER!

LIFE GUARD

WHAT A FATE! TEE, HEE!

LATER THAT DAY---

MERWIN, IS PUDGY PIG GONE? IS IT SAFE TO COME OUT?

DEFINITELY NOT, RASPY! YOU MAY HAVE TO STAY HERE FOR A WEEK! BUT DON'T WORRY... I'LL BRING YOU FOOD AND TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING! TEE HEE!

ISN'T HE DARLING?

ADORABLE! HE'S A HERO, TOO! HE'S THE ONE WHO REALLY SAVED PUDGY PIG FROM DROWNING!

THERE IS NOTHING LIKE BEING A LIFE GUARD! RASPUTIN DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HE'S MISSING! HEE, HEE!

?

LIFE GUARD

EGBERT and the COUNT

FRANKLY, EGBERT, I'M WORRIED! I THINK SOMEBODY'S TRYING TO BREAK IN!

JAILER

YEOW!

DETECTIVE SCHLONK

WHAT'S WITH YOU, EGBERT?

I WAS READING ABOUT A FAMOUS PRIVATE DETECTIVE! WOW! WHAT FRIGHTENING EXPERIENCES HE HAS, COUNT!

NONSENSE! IT'S ALL IN A DAY'S WORK, YOU LITTLE CLUCK! WHY, I, MYSELF, AM GOING INTO THE BUSINESS!

W-WELL, POINT THAT GUN THE OTHER WAY OR YOU'LL GIVE **ME** THE BUSINESS!

EGBERT

DON'T BE SO CHICKEN---THE GUN ISN'T EVEN LOADED!

YEEPS! YOU CAN'T EVEN TELL THE TRUTH BY ACCIDENT, COUNT!

HUH? ER--- EGBERT, ARE YOU INFERRING THAT I AM DISHONEST?

BANG!

SURE! AND WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT GOING INTO THE DETECTIVE BUSINESS? I THOUGHT YOU WERE PUTTING A COSMETIC ON THE MARKET!

OH, YES, MY CONCOCTION FOR CHICKS WHO WANT TO BE REVITALIZED! I MIXED NITROGLYCERINE WITH COLD CREAM! THE RESULTS WERE SO EXPLOSIVE I DECIDED IN FAVOR OF DETECTING!

WELL, I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE GOING INTO A BUSINESS THAT'S HONEST FOR A CHANGE!

OH, IT ISN'T SUCH A CHANGE, I'VE GOT AN ANGLE---ULP! YES, EGBERT, I'M GOING STRAIGHT AT LAST!

THE COUNT DETECTIVE EXTRAORDINARY

RING!

I'VE ADVERTISED IN THE PAPERS--- AHA, THAT MUST BE A SUCKER--- CLIENT! I'LL TAKE IT!

I'LL GET IT! WHEN YOU'RE IN AN HONEST BUSINESS, I LIKE TO HELP ALL I CAN!

NEVER MIND, PALLY! I'LL TAKE CARE OF MY OWN BUSINESS!

RING!

BUT I'D LOVE TO BE OF ASSISTANCE! OOF!

WHAT? NOT CAMILLE CRUMP, THE FAMOUS ACTRESS! AND YOU SAY YOUR DIAMOND NECKLACE HAS BEEN STOLEN?

WOW! WE BETTER GET OVER THERE FAST! NOW WHERE DID I PUT MY AUTOGRAPH BOOK?

ON SECOND THOUGHT, EGBERT, OL' CACKLEBERRY, I MIGHT NEED A FALL GUY---ER--- PARTNER!

SWELL! YOU CAN TRUST ME, COUNT!

THEN YOU'LL BE THE ONLY ONE IN THIS DUO THAT CAN BE TRUSTED, BUSTER!

AHA, HERE WE ARE!

GEE, I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO MEET THE FAMOUS ACTRESS! I'LL BET SHE'S BEAUTIFUL!

BUZZ!

CAMILLE CRUMP

WELL, WHAT DO YOU TWO DEAD BEATS WANT?

GULP! MADAM, I AM THE COUNT, DETECTIVE EXTRAORDINARY! AND THIS IS EGBERT! WE ARE HERE TO SEE MISS CRUMP!

I'LL BE RIGHT WITH YOU!

GOLLY, IF SHE'S CAMILLE CRUMP, SHE'D BE A GOOD CUSTOMER FOR YOUR COSMETIC, COUNT!

YES! THAT'S ONE FACE THAT WOULD BE IMPROVED NO MATTER WHAT YOU DID TO IT! PHEW!

SWISH

GENTLEMEN, I AM ZE GREAT CAMILLE!

YOU CERTAINLY ARE, BABE---ULP, MISS CRUMP!

TWEEE-TWEEE!

SOB! I AM DESOLATE! MY BEEOOTIFUL NECK-LACE IS STOLEN BY ZEE THIEF!

GOSH, DON'T CRY ABOUT IT! FORGET YOUR WORRIES AND SIGN MY AUTO-GRAPH BOOK!

MY NECKLACE HAS BEEN STOLEN AND YOU EXPECT ME TO WRITE? TAKE YOUR CHEAP AUTO-GRAPH BOOK AWAY!

BAM!

OH, IT'S NOT SO CHEAP!

TELL US ABOUT THE THEFT!

THEES CROOK TRIED TO LEAVE A PASTE IMITATION OF MY NECKLACE TO FOOL ME! BUT I STARTLED HEEM AND HE RAN OFF WEETH BOTH OF THEM!

STEP ASIDE, MY FINE FEATHERED FATHEAD! THEN YOU DID GET A LOOK AT THE CROOK, MISS CRUMP!

I DEED! I COULD SPOT THE BUM--- ER---I'D KNOW ZE SCOUNDREL ANYWHERE!

PHOTO ALBUM

DO ANY OF THESE PICTURES LOOK FAMILIAR? HUSH, EGBERT!

THERE HE EES! THEES MAN STOLE MY DIAMOND NECKLACE!

BUT, COUNT...

PI

AHA! LOUIE, THE LUG!

COURAGE, CAMILLE! WE ARE OFF TO HUNT THE THIEF AND MAYBE RECOVER THE LOOT!

FAREWELL, BRAVE---ER--- MEN!

ABOUT THAT ALBUM--- ULP!

WHOOSH

WHAT'S THE IDEA? THAT WAS YOUR PERSONAL PHOTO ALBUM AND LOUIE THE LUG IS AN OLD PAL OF YOURS!

EXACTLY! MY, WHO WOULD THINK THAT LOUIE WOULD SINK TO ROBBERY!

NOW THAT WE'VE LOCATED LOUIE, WE CAN CALL THE POLICE!

NOTHING DOING! I'M GONNA CASH IN---ER --- SMASH IN AND GET LOUIE MYSELF! YOU WAIT OUT HERE!

LOUIE

GEE, I MISS ALL THE FUN!

HI, LOUIE, OLD PAL!

WELL, IF IT AIN'T THE COUNT! WELCOME, CHUM!

I'LL JUST KEEP AN EYE ON THAT DEFECTIVE DETECTIVE AND HIS OLD FRIEND! HMMM!

SURE I TOOK IT! AIN'T IT A BEAUT? BUT WHY ARE *YOU* IN THE DETECTIVE RACKET?

THIS IS WHAT I HAD IN MIND ALL ALONG, LOUIE! WE'LL SELL THE NECKLACE AND SPLIT THE TAKE AND THEN I WON'T HAVE TO TURN YOU IN AS A THIEF!

SO MANY OF MY PALS ARE ENGAGED IN SHADY DEALS I THOUGHT THAT AS A DETECTIVE I'D HAVE A CHANCE TO HELP 'EM OUT AND, *HEH-HEH*, CUT IN ON THE CASH! WHATDYA SAY, OLD FRIEND?

HUH? SURE THING, COUNT! SUPPOSE *YOU* GO OUT 'N SELL THE ICE? I'LL WAIT HERE FOR YOU!

I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D AGREE SO READILY, LOUIE! WE SHOULD GET A GOOD PRICE FOR THIS!

YOU CAN KEEP AN EYE ON MY--ER--PARTNER WHILE I'M OUT MAKING THE SALE!

YER NOT CUTTIN' ANYBODY ELSE IN ON THIS, ARE YOU?

SWISH!

DON'T WORRY, LOUIE! EGBERT'S JUST A LITTLE EGGHEAD I KEEP AROUND FOR LAUGHS! YUK! YUK!

IZZATSO? WELL, I KNOW EVERYTHING, COUNT, AND YOU'RE GONNA BE SORRY!

TA-TA, AND YOU'D BETTER KEEP QUIET, EGBERT, OR LOUIE WILL MAKE THINGS UNPLEASANT!

BUT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! I SAW---

SHADDUP, YA CHUMP!

BAM!

YOU'RE A *PAIR* OF CROOKS! THE COUNT OUTSMARTED CAMILLE AND YOU OUTSMARTED HIM!

'N YOU'RE TOO SMART FER YER HEALTH! GRRR!

I GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE, SO---

OOOF!

BAM!

CRACK!

EGBERT

...I'M OFF!

SWISH!

CRASH!

OUOO!

WHIZZ!

I SURE USED MY HEAD WHEN I FRAMED *THIS* RACKET! WHO SAYS CRIME DOESN'T PAY OFF?

HALP!

OUCH!

I *KNEW* THAT FLYIN' CHICKEN WOULD COME TO NO GOOD END!

BWAM!

I ARREST YOU FOR...

HUH?

I GIVE UP! HERE'S THE SWAG! DON'T HIT ME AGAIN, OFFICER!

WHAT GOES ON? I WAS ARRESTIN' THIS GUY FER DISTURBIN' THE PEACE 'N *YOU* TURN OVER THE MISSIN' NECKLACE CAMILLE CRUMP HAS BEEN YAPPIN' ABOUT!

AND THAT'S NOT THE *REAL* NECKLACE, OFFICER! THE OTHER CROOK HAS IT BACK THERE!

NOT THE REAL... OHHH!

OTHER CROOK? SIR, I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW THAT I'M NOT A---

CUT IT, COUNT! I RECOGNIZE YOU NOW! WE'LL PICK UP THE OTHER ONE AND TOSS YA BOTH IN THE JUG!

IT PAYS TO BE HONEST, COUNT! I GOT CAMILLE AND SHE'S GOT HER NECKLACE!

HMMPH!

YAH! AND I GOT FIVE YEARS! PHOOEY!

EGBERT

BEANIE BEAR

HERE, BEANIE BEAR, THESE ARE FOR YOU!

THANKS, MR. BINDLE! BUT WHEN DID YOU GET SO GENEROUS?

DO NOT PICK THE FLOWERS UNDER PENALTY OF THE LAW

A CUB SCOUT DOES A GOOD DEED EVERY DAY, AND I'M GOING TO DO MINE NOW!

HMM! BEANIE'S GOT A BUCK!

BEANIE, MY LITTLE FRIEND, COULD I BOTHER YOU FOR A SLIGHT LOAN? I'M WITHOUT FUNDS!

MR. BINDLE, YOU'RE ALWAYS BROKE! WHY DON'T YOU GO TO WORK?

WORK? OHHHH! YOU KNOW I'M NOT ABLE TO WORK! I'M A SICK MAN!

THE MENTION OF WORK ALWAYS MAKES YOU SICK! YOU'RE JUST LAZY, AND THIS TIME YOU CAN'T PLAY ON MY SYMPATHY!

I *WORKED* FOR THIS DOLLAR! AND I'M GOING TO SPEND IT TO BUY FLOWERS FOR GRANDMA GOAT WHO'S *REALLY SICK!*

NOBODY CARES ABOUT ME! I'M JUST A POOR, MISERABLE CREATURE --

-- HELPLESS AND FORLORN! EVEN YOU HAVE FORSAKEN ME!

I'M ON TO YOUR WAYS, THAT'S ALL! WHEN YOU MAKE AN HONEST EFFORT, I'LL BE YOUR FRIEND AGAIN!

MMMM! IT DIDN'T WORK! I'VE GOT TO THINK OF A WAY TO SEPARATE BEANIE FROM HIS MONEY BEFORE HE SPENDS IT ON SOMETHING AS USELESS AS FLOWERS!

EVERYBODY'S AGAINST ME! ⇶SOB⇷ ⇶SOB⇷⇶SNIFF⇷

I DON'T LIKE TO BE UNKIND TO MR. BINDLE, BUT HE BRINGS HIS TROUBLES ON HIMSELF AND GETS ME IN TROUBLE, TOO!

FLOWERS! THAT'S IT!

IT'S A GOOD IDEA, BUT I'VE GOT TO WORK FAST! I DON'T SEE A COP AROUND.. I'M IN LUCK!

THESE OUGHTA BRING A BUCK! NOW I'LL HEAD OFF BEANIE AND--

HEY, YOU! IT'S AGAINST THE LAW TO PICK THOSE FLOWERS!

DO NOT PICK THE FLOWERS

STOP, IN THE NAME OF THE LAW!

YAWK! SOMEBODY'S ALWAYS TRYING TO THWART MY HONEST...ER..MY ENDEAVORS!

MAYBE THIS'LL THROW HIM OFF THE TRACK! PANT PANT

GAZOOKS, FORTUNE'S WITH ME! THAT SHAWL AND SKIRT WILL COME IN HANDY!

I'LL DISGUISE MYSELF SO THAT NEITHER BEANIE NOR THE COP WILL RECOGNIZE ME, THEREBY AVOIDING SUSPICION!

THIEF! SCOUNDREL! COME BACK WITH MY CLOTHES!

YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH IT, YOU CUR! *HELP! POLICE!*

NOW I'LL TAKE A SHORT-CUT AND HEAD OFF BEANIE! I'VE GOT TO GET THAT DOLLAR!

IT'S A LONG WAY TO THE FLORIST SHOP, BUT IT'LL BE WORTH THE EFFORT TO DO MY GOOD DEED FOR GRANDMA GOAT!

WHAT'S THIS... A POOR OLD LADY SELLING FLOWERS? MAYBE I'LL GET THEM FROM HER!

BUY MY BOUQUET, BOY, AND HELP ME OUT! IT'S ONLY A BUCK!

I HAVE JUST THAT MUCH MONEY WITH ME AND I WAS GOING TO BUY FLOWERS ANYWAY! BY HELPING YOU, I CAN DO TWO GOOD DEEDS!

THAT'S THE CULPRIT! HE'S WEARING MY CLOTHES!

AND THOSE ARE THE FLOWERS FROM THE PARK, TOO!

GRAWK!

I'LL GET HIM!

MR. BINDLE!

YOU CROOK, YOU'RE COMING WITH ME! YOU'LL PAY A FINE OR GO TO JAIL!

GEE, I'VE GOT TO TRY TO HELP MR. BINDLE! HE HAS NO MONEY TO PAY A FINE AND I DON'T WANT HIM TO GO TO JAIL!

MR. POLICEMAN, I HAVE A DOLLAR! WILL THAT BE ENOUGH TO PAY MR. BINDLE'S FINE AND KEEP HIM OUT OF JAIL?

OKAY, I'LL SETTLE! THE CLINK'S ALREADY TOO FULL OF TRAMPS!

WHAT'LL WE DO WITH THE FLOWERS?

WE CAN'T TRANSPLANT 'EM, CAN WE? KEEP 'EM! AND KEEP THAT BUM FRIEND OF YOURS OUT OF TROUBLE!

BUT YOU CAN'T KEEP MY SKIRT AND SHAWL!

OF COURSE NOT, MRS. MUSKRAT! HERE THEY ARE, AND I'M SORRY MR. BINDLE CAUSED YOU SO MUCH TROUBLE!

THE IDEA! FOLKS' GARMENTS AIN'T SAFE ON THEIR OWN CLOTHESLINES THESE DAYS!

WELL, WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY FOR YOURSELF?

I'M JUST A WOEBEGONE, WORTHLESS, NO-GOOD FAILURE! BUT I'M GRATEFUL TO YOU, BEANIE, FOR TAKING PITY ON A POOR SICK MAN!

YOU'D HAVE BEEN A LOT SICKER IF YOU'D LANDED IN JAIL!

YOU'RE RIGHT! I'VE LEARNED MY LESSON! FROM NOW ON, I'M GOING TO STAY OUT OF TROUBLE AND LIVE RIGHT!

THEN YOU CAN START NOW BY GOING WITH ME TO TAKE THESE FLOWERS TO GRANDMA GOAT!

I WANT YOU TO FIND OUT HOW IT FEELS TO DO A GOOD DEED!

GAZOOKS, LAD, I FEEL LOTS BETTER ALREADY!

GRANDMA GOAT, THIS IS MR. BINDLE! HE AND I BROUGHT YOU THESE FLOWERS!

THAT'S GOOD OF YOU BOTH, BEANIE! PUT THE FLOWERS IN WATER, THEN EACH OF YOU HAVE A BIG PIECE OF THE CAKE ON THE KITCHEN TABLE!

THANKS FOR THINKING OF ME AND COME AGAIN!

WE WILL! AND THANKS FOR THE CAKE, TOO!

YOU SEE, MR. BINDLE? DOING GOOD PAYS OFF!

IT SURE DOES, BEANIE! CHOMP SLURP GULP THIS CAKE'S SWELL!

I HOPE YOU'VE REALLY LEARNED SOMETHING FROM THIS EXPERIENCE!

OH, I HAVE, MY BOY! YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH I'VE LEARNED!

IN THAT CASE, I'VE DONE A GOOD DEED TODAY THAT I DIDN'T PLAN!

I'VE LEARNED HOW EASY IT IS TO GET CAKE, AND I SURE COULD DO WITH ANOTHER PIECE!

IT'S NOT SAFE FOR ME TO PICK FLOWERS IN THE PARK, BUT I KNOW WHERE SOME DANDELIONS ARE GROWING!

IF I TAKE THESE TO THE OLD LADY GOAT, MAYBE SHE'LL GIVE ME MORE CAKE!

YEP, FLOWERS WILL BE MY RACKET FROM NOW ON! WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF IT BEFORE?

THERE GOES THAT LOW-DOWN CHARACTER WHO STOLE MY CLEAN CLOTHES AND GOT THEM DIRTY! I'LL FIX HIM!

SOCK

UGH

NEXT DAY...

MR. BINDLE, I JUST HEARD YOU WERE IN THE HOSPITAL! I'M SORRY, AND I BROUGHT YOU SOME FLOWERS!

OHHH, TAKE 'EM AWAY! I NEVER WANT TO SEE FLOWERS AGAIN! BEANIE, MY BOY, THIS TIME I'M *REALLY* A SICK MAN!

EGBERT'S TRIUMPH

THERE are times when the Count's foxy face assumes a look of sad, weary disappointment and he looks as if he will stop his career of swindling and posing and go straight. This was not one of those times. His red-furred, sharp-nosed head was close to that of Loopy the Lizard as they closely studied an ancient parchment map.

"We found it, all right," said Loopy in triumph. "The treasure chart that shows where old Pirate Pete buried his wealth in Thistle Thicket. Count, old boy, we'll be rich! Of course, there's all that pick and shovel work to dig it up, but—"

"Loopy," said the Count, "you and I are practical people. We're not fitted for hard labor. Maybe we can trick Egbert into digging that swag up for us. Here he comes along the path now. Give me the map and duck behind that bush."

The Count dropped the parchment on the path and whisked Loopy into hiding. Moments passed, and Egbert, hopping clumsily, came opposite. He paused. He goggled. He picked up the map. His beak opened and he emitted a squawk of inspired joy. He scuttled away toward Thistle Thicket.

When Egbert was gone, Loopy studied the Count with worried eyes. "I don't get it," he protested. "Egbert's got the map. He'll dig up the treasure—"

"And we'll get it!" said the Count. "Remember all the tales about how Pirate Pete's ghost haunts his hoard? Egbert remembers, too. As soon as he brings the money out, we'll set up a ghastly howl. Egbert will tear out of there like a rocket. And we'll grab the loot, without having turned a spadeful of that heavy, heavy sod!"

Together Loopy and the Count stole to Thistle Thicket. Egbert had already marked a large, jagged cross on the spot indicated by the map, and had found a pick and a shovel. With all the strength of his clumsy little body he began to burrow. "Oh, boy," the two listening plotters heard him say to himself. "Oh, boy, oh boy, oh boy! All that pirate gold, just for little old deserving me!"

Loopy and the Count nudged each other and tried to keep from laughing. They watched from behind a big tree, while Egbert dug deep, deeper, deeper still. His whole form disappeared in the hole.

"I hear his spade clinking on metal," whispered the Count to Loopy. "It's almost time."

Egbert, deep in the hole, was scraping loose soil away from around something—a massive, metal-clamped chest. "Oh boy," he panted. "This looks like what I'm after." He caught the handles and heaved. "Oops! It weighs a ton—"

With a mighty effort he heaved the chest up to ground level and paused to wipe his perspiring brow.

"Now," muttered the Count. "Yell your loudest and scariest, Loopy."

Together they raised a weird, creepy wail. "*Oooooooco! Ooooooooo!* Who dares dig for my dough? I'll carry him away to ghostland!"

"Sqwarrrrk!" shrilled Egbert in terror. He had not the strength left to get out and run, and he shoved his head, ostrich-like, into the loose dirt at the bottom of the pit. The Count and Loopy seized the handles of the chest and, exerting all their strength, lifted it and ran, ran, ran. Far away from Thistle Thicket they found a quiet place among some tangled vines. There they pried open the lid of the rusty old chest. It was full of—

"Rocks!" yelled Loopy in disgust. "Pirate Pete didn't bury any gold, after all."

"Here's a note among the rocks," said the Count. Together they read:

"Under this chest, weighted down to make a protecting barrier, is my fortune. Let him who has the courage and industry to reach it be the one to profit by it."

"Quick, quick!" cried the Count. "Back to the hole." Back they raced, but Egbert was gone. And they found nothing beneath the place where the chest had been found.

In his own modest home, Egbert was counting the broad gold pieces that filled an ancient silver teapot. He had to count several times, using all his fingers and toes, and even then he could not count high enough to decide how much he had found.

"Good thing that ghost wooped at me," he said to himself. "Otherwise I'd never have dug my face into the dirt and found Pirate Pete's REAL treasure trove! Won't the Count be surprised when I tell him about *this!*"

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946 (39 U.S.C. 233)

Of EGBERT, published bi-monthly at Buffalo, N. Y. for October 1, 1949.

1. The names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, Everett M. Arnold, Lucas Point, Old Greenwich, Conn.; Editor, Harry Stein, 25 West 45th Street, New York, N. Y.; Managing Editor, None; Business Manager, Everett M. Arnold, Lucas Point, Old Greenwich, Conn.

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EVERETT M. ARNOLD
Publisher.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 27th day of September, 1949
LOUIS J. KURIANSKY, Notary Public. Commission expires April 1 1951

EGBERT and the COUNT

DON'T WORRY, CHILDREN! THAT CHICKEN THIEF WON'T BOTHER YOU AS LONG AS I'M AROUND! TEE, HEE!

GEE, EGBERT, WHAT IF THE COUNT GETS US?

BEWARE

THE COUNT CHICKEN THIEF

CHICKEN FEED

WHERE ARE YOU HEADED, EGBERT?

TO MRS. HENRIETTA PENNINGTON'S! SHE SENT THIS NOTE SAYING SHE WANTS TO SEE ME!

WELL, HOP IN, FRIEND! I'LL DRIVE YOU THERE!

GEE, THANKS, COUNT!

HMM! MRS. PENNINGTON IS ROLLING IN DOUGH!

YES, AND SHE'S WEALTHY, TOO! MAYBE I'LL BREAK INTO SOCIETY! TEE, HEE!

I'D LIKE TO BREAK IN, TOO-- INTO HENNY PENNY'S SAFE!

SO LONG, COUNT! BE SEEING YOU!

HE'LL BE SEEING ME, ALL RIGHT! I'M GOING TO HANG AROUND UNTIL I KNOW WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT! MAYBE IT'S MY CHANCE TO GET RICH QUICK! HEH, HEH!

YOU WANTED TO SEE ME, MRS. PENNINGTON?

YES, EGBERT! IT'S ABOUT A JOB!

A JOB? OHHH!

MY SISTER BIDDIE'S BRATS ...ER... BABES ARE VISITING ME! AND I NEED SOMEBODY TO MIND THEM!

I'LL PAY YOU A SLIGHT SUM TO KEEP AN EYE ON THEM! YOU'LL BE A SORT OF BABY GUARD!

A POULTRY NURSE FOR A PALTRY PURSE, HUH? TEE, HEE! OKAY, WHAT DO I HAVE TO LOSE?

CHICKIE AND CHUCK, THIS IS EGBERT! HE'LL TAKE YOU OUT OF MY WAY...ER... OUT TO PLAY!

HMMM! I HEARD HER THE FIRST TIME!

oooooo

GET TO WORK, JERK! TAKE US OUT TO PLAY! YOU'RE GETTING PAID FOR IT!

AS I SAID, WHAT DO I HAVE TO LOSE-- EXCEPT MY LIFE? =GULP=

GULP!

GEE, CHUCK, I DON'T WANT THAT DUMB CLUCK AROUND ALL THE TIME! WHAT'LL WE DO?

LEAVE IT TO ME, CHICKIE! I'LL GET RID OF HIM IN A HURRY!

WHAT DO YOU CHILDREN LIKE TO PLAY?

I LIKE TO PLAY ROUGH!

FOR INSTANCE, I LIKE TO JUMP, CHUMP—LIKE THIS!

OR PLAY THIS GAME, CALLED TWEAK THE BEAK!

YEOW!

THEN, THERE'S CRACK-THE-WHIP, DRIP! GET UP!

ONE, TWO, THREE-- AWAY GOES HE!

AUG!

SQUAWK!

SMACK!

WHAT'S BACK OF THIS, EGBERT? I MEAN, WHY ARE YOU PLAYING WITH KIDS?

I'M THEIR BODYGUARD, TO KEEP ANYBODY FROM HARMING THEM! BUT THEY'RE DRIVING ME NUTS!

I'M READY FOR THE BOOBY-HATCH!

CHEER UP, CHUM! I'LL HELP YOU OUT---

---OF A JOB, THAT IS!

YOU WILL? GEE, THAT'S SWELL!

SURE! JUST INTRODUCE ME TO THE FINE-FEATHERED FRAU AND I'LL DO THE REST!

CHICKIE, I DON'T TRUST THAT GUY THE COUNT!

I DON'T LIKE HIM EITHER, CHUCK! MAYBE WE'D BETTER KEEP OUR EYES ON HIM!

MRS. PENNINGTON, MEET THE COUNT!

A COUNT? OH, TEE, HEE, HEE! REAL ROYALTY!

YOU MUST EXCUSE ME WHILE I PREEN A BIT!

ROYALTY! COUNT, YOU KNOW THAT'S A PHONY TITLE!

SURE! AND IF I KNOW THAT OLD HEN, SHE'LL TAKE AN HOUR TO PRIMP! MEAN-WHILE, IT'S SAFE TO LOOK FOR THE SAFE!

COUNT, YOU CAN'T DO THAT! IT'S CROOKED!

EGBERT

I WORK TO MAKE AN HONEST LIVING AND YOU INVOLVE ME IN CRIME!

THE CRIME IS THAT YOU WEREN'T SMART ENOUGH TO THINK OF THIS YOURSELF!

WE'RE BREAKING INTO SOCIETY, EGBERT! HEH, HEH! WHAT A BREAK!

I WON'T LET YOU DO IT! I'LL TELL MRS. PENNINGTON! I'LL SQUEAL!

OH, NO, YOU WON'T! I'M TAKING YOU WITH ME!

CHUCK, THE COUNT'S MAKING OFF WITH EGBERT! WHAT'LL WE DO?

WE'LL TRY TO SAVE HIM! AFTER ALL, HE *IS* A CHICKEN!

YES, AND HE'S REALLY A GOOD EGG!

NOW I KNOW WHY AUNT HENNY PENNY HIRED EGBERT FOR US! IT WAS TO SAVE US FROM CHARACTERS LIKE THE COUNT!

YAWK! SQUAWK! HELP!

PUT ME DOWN! COUNT, YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH THIS!

AND YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY TO TELL ON ME, BIRD-BRAIN!

HMM! WHAT A KILL! I CAN LIVE ON THIS FOR QUITE A WHILE!

MURDER, HE SAYS! CHICKIE, RUN FOR A COP!

IT'S MURDER!

I HEARD EVERYTHING, COUNT! YOU'RE A CHICKEN THIEF AND A MURDERER!

IT'S ONE OF THOSE KIDS! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

I CAME TO PLAY! HOW ABOUT FOOTBALL?

HEY!

OR MAYBE YOU LIKE BASKETBALL BETTER!

PLOP!

UGH!

OR BASEBALL!

YAK!

SWAT!

YOU'RE A GOOD BOY, CHUCK! YOU SAVED MY LIFE!

AW, YOU STOOD THE TEST, TOO, PEST! LET'S BE FRIENDS, HUH?

CHUCK, THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE SAFE--AND EGBERT, TOO!

AND THE COUNT'LL BE SAFE NOW, TOO--SAFE IN JAIL!

LATER...

EGBERT, HERE'S A REWARD FOR SAVING MY MONEY AND JEWELS! AND THE JOB IS STILL YOURS, IF YOU WANT IT!

NO, THANKS, MRS. PENNINGTON! CHUCK AND CHICKIE DON'T NEED A BODYGUARD! AFTER ALL, THEY RESCUED *ME* FROM THE COUNT!

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WAIT, I'VE GOT AN IDEA!
STOP OR I'LL SHOOT!
LET'S GET OUT 'A HERE BILLY!
JEEZ! THE KID'S GOT A REAL GUN KILLER!
GOOD WORK, BILLY. WE'VE BEEN AFTER THESE CROOKS FOR A LONG TIME...
YOU FOOLED US, KID. I THOUGHT THAT GUN WAS A REAL ONE!
BILLY, YOU SAVED THE BANK. HERE'S YOUR REWARD!
THANK YOU MR. BANKER, BUT MY NEW GUN DESERVES THE CREDIT
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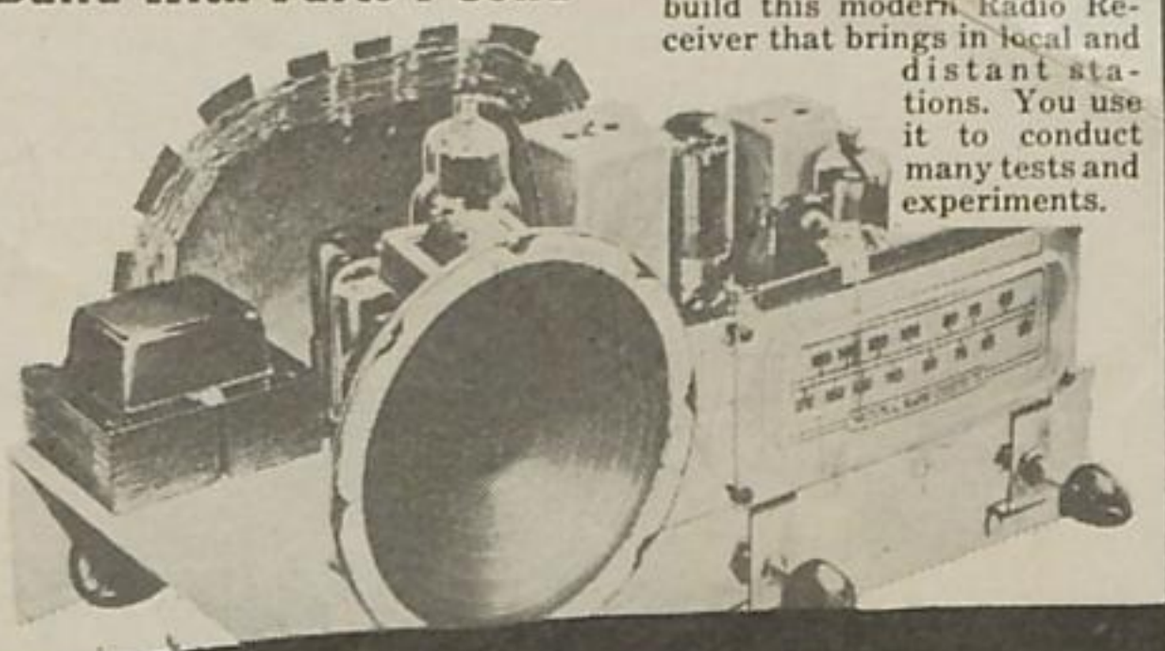

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